

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8603

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, SA, SY, IR, XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH CROWN PRINCE - JORDANIAN CONTACTS

1. I HAD A FEW MINUTES JULY 22 WITH CROWN PRINCE HASAN WHO IS "REGENT" DURING KINGS' CURRENT ABSENCE IN IRAN.
2. HASAN BRIEFED ME ON JORDANIAN TALKS IN SAUDI ARABIA FOLLOWING UP ON ASAD'S "MESSAGE" EARLIER IN THE WEEK. JORDANIAN MINISTER OF STATE AMER KHAMMASH SAW KING KHALID, ACCORDING TO HASAN, AND SAUDIS RELAYED BACK THROUGH JORDAN TO SYRIA THEIR FULL SUPPORT, INCLUDING COMMITMENT OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO SYRIA IF THAT WERE REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH SOVIET PRESSURE AND THREATS. HASAN WAS GENERAL IN HIS COMMENTS, BUT SPECIFIC ON FACT THAT SAUDIS WANTED TO ASSURE ASAD OF THEIR HELP.
3. KHALID HAD TOLD KHAMMASH HE WAS WAITING FOR US ANSWERS TO SAUDI QUESTIONS ON AIR DEFENSE DEAL. I TOLD HASAN THAT ANSWERS HAD NOW BEEN DELIVERED.
4. HASAN INDICATED THAT HEAD OF ROYAL COURT HAD BEEN SENT TO SEE ASAD YESTERDAY TO RELAY SAUDI RESPONSE AND DETAILS ON US REACTION. FURTHER, HE HAD ALSO CONVEYED IRANIAN REACTION. SHAH PASSED ON THROUGH JORDANIANS TO ASAD THAT HE HAD THEIR SUPPORT, BUT THAT IRAN DID NOT WANT TO GET MIXED UP IN AN INTER-ARAB PROBLEM IF IT COULD AVOID DOING SO. SHAH IS REPORTED TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS CLOSE CONJUNCTION OF VIEWS AMONG SYRIANS, SAUDIS, JORDAN AND EGYPT AND THAT THIS WOULD BE PRINCIPAL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 03850 221029Z

FACTOR IN HELPING TO RELIEVE PRESSURE ON ASAD.

5. HASAN TOLD ME THAT KHAMMASH WAS IN TOUCH WITH SADAT DURING HIS VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. SYRIAN PROBLEM AND SOVIET PRESSURE HAD BEEN EXPLAINED TO SADAT BY KHAMMASH. I HAVE NO DETAILS ON SADAT'S REACTION, EXCEPT THAT HASAN TOLD ME THAT SADAT TOO SEEMED SYMPATHETIC TO ASAD'S PLIGHT. ON JORDANIAN - EGYPTIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS, KING TOLD ME EARLIER THAT HE HOPED TO WORK OUT SOME IMPROVEMENT WITH SADAT. HE WAS PREPARED TO TRY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF A NEW EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN JORDAN (PREVIOUS EGYPTIAN CANDIDATE WAS OBJECTIONABLE TO KING BECAUSE OF HIS ROLE HERE IN 1970) BY WITHDRAWING HIS OWN (JORDANIAN) AMBASSADOR FROM CAIRO OPENING THE WAY FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW AMBASSADORS IN BOTH CAPITALS. HASAN TOLD ME THAT SADAT WAS NOW PREPARED TO OPEN UP AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL RELATIONS WITH JORDAN RAPIDLY AND THAT JORDAN CONSIDERED THIS A SUCCESSFUL FIRST STEP IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH EGYPT. PICKERING

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